

Stem Cell Agency Board Approves \$5 Million in Emergency Funding for COVID-19 Research

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Oakland, CA – In response to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus in California and around the world the governing Board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) today held an emergency meeting to approve \$5 million in rapid research funds targeting the virus.

"These are clearly extraordinary times and they require an extraordinary response from all of us," says Dr. Maria T. Millan, President and CEO of CIRM. "Our mission is to accelerate stem cell treatments to patients with unmet medical needs. California researchers have made us aware that they are pursuing potential stem cell based approaches to the COVID-19 crisis and we felt it was our responsibility to respond by doing all we can to support this research and doing so as quickly as we possibly can."

The Board's decision enables CIRM to allocate \$5 million in funding for peer-reviewed regenerative medicine and stem cell research that could quickly advance treatments for COVID-19. The funding will be awarded as part of an expedited approval process.

To qualify applicants would go through a full review by CIRM's independent Grants Working Group.

- Approved projects will be immediately forwarded to the CIRM Board for a vote
- Projects approved by the Board would go through an accelerated contract process to ensure funds are distributed as quickly as possible

"Our hope is that we can go from application to funding within 30 to 40 days," says Jonathan Thomas, PhD, JD, Chair of the CIRM Board. "This is a really tight timeframe, but we can't afford to waste a moment. There is too much at stake. The coronavirus is creating an unprecedented threat to all of us and, as one of the leading players in regenerative medicine, we are committed to doing all we can to develop the tools and promote the research that will help us respond to that threat."

Only projects that target the development or testing of a treatment for COVID-19 are eligible. They must also meet other requirements including being ready to start work within 30 days of approval and propose achieving a clear deliverable within six months. The proposed therapy must also involve a stem cell or a drug or antibody targeting stem cells.

The award amounts and duration of the award are as follows:

Award Amount and Duration Limits

Project Stage	Specific Program	Award Amount*	Award Duration
Clinical trial	CLIN2	\$750,000	24 months
Late stage preclinical	CLIN1	\$400,000	12 months
Translational	TRAN1	\$350,000	12 months
Discovery	DISC2	\$150,000	12 months

"All hands are on deck world-wide in this fight against COVID-19," says Dr. Millan. "CIRM will deploy its accelerated funding model to arm our stem cell researchers in this multi-pronged and global attack on the virus."

Please refer to the following Program Announcement for more details:

- **Special Call for COVID-19 Projects**

CIRM is establishing an open call for proposals and will accept applications on a bi-monthly basis. The first deadline for applications will be **on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 2pm PST**.

To Submit an Application:

1. Go to the **Grants Management Portal** (<https://grants.cirm.ca.gov>) and log in with your existing CIRM Username and Password. If you do not have a Username, Click on the **"New User"** link and follow the instructions to create a CIRM Username and password.
2. After logging in, click on the Menu tab. Select the tab labeled **"Open Programs"**. Under the section labeled **"RFAs and Programs Open for Applications"**, click on the **"Start a Grant Application"** link for your selected program.
3. Complete each section of the Application by clicking on the appropriate link and following the posted instructions. Proposal templates can be located and submitted under the **"Uploads"** section.
4. To submit your Application, click on the **"Done with Application"** button. The **"Done with Application"** button will be enabled when all of the mandatory sections have been completed. Please note that once this has been selected, you will no longer be able to make changes to your Application.
5. To confirm submission of your Application, select the tab labeled **"Your Applications"** and check the table under the section labeled **"Your Submitted Applications"**. You will see your Application number and project title listed once the submission process has been completed.

About CIRM

At CIRM, we never forget that we were created by the people of California to accelerate stem cell treatments to patients with unmet medical needs, and act with a sense of urgency to succeed in that mission.

To meet this challenge, our team of highly trained and experienced professionals actively partners with both academia and industry in a hands-on, entrepreneurial environment to fast track the development of today's most promising stem cell technologies.

With \$3 billion in funding and approximately 300 active stem cell programs in our portfolio, CIRM is the world's largest institution dedicated to helping people by bringing the future of cellular medicine closer to reality.

For more information go to www.cirm.ca.gov

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